

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03011 230044Z
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 /031 W

-----231203Z 086569 /13

R 222036Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0186

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3011

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: SHUM SREF BR AR

SUBJECT: UNHCR AND REFUGEE MATTERS

1. DEPUTY DIRECOTR UNITED UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR
REFUGEES (UNHCR) OFFICE IN BUENOS AIRES, GUY PRIM (FRENCH
NATIONAL) TOLD EMBOFF APR 20 THAT HE HAS BEEN ASKED BY UNHCR
GENEVA TO GO TO RIO DE JANEIRO ARRIVING MAY 8 FOR THREE MONTHS
TEMPORARY DUTY IN REPRESENTATION UNHCR. HE WILL ESTABLISH HIMSELF
IN UNDP OFFICES IN RIO, AND PROBABLY HIRE SOME LOCAL STAFF.
DEPENDING UPON HIS EXPERIENCE THERE, AND REFUGEE DEVELOPMENTS,
DECISION WILL BE MADE BY UNHCR AS TO NEED FOR PERMANENT OFFICE IN
BRAZIL.

2. FOLLOWING COMMENTS BY PRIM SHOULD BE PROTECTED: PRINCIPAL
REASON FOR ESTABLISHMENT UNHCR PRESENCE IN RIO IS NUMBER OF
ARGENTINE REFUGEES IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES IN BRAZIL. APPARENTLY
THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO SETTLE THERE, AND UNHCR MUST FIND MEANS
TO MOVE THEM ON TO OTHER COUNTRIES. PRIM WILL VISIT OTHER CITIES
IN BRAZIL, AND WILL LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING OFFICERS OF CONGEN
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 03011 230044Z

RIO AND OTHER US OFFICES IN BRAZIL. (WE HAVE FOUND PRIM FRIENDLY,
INFORMATIVE AND RELIABLE SOURCE, AND RECOMMEND HIM TO ADDRESSEES.)

3. IN CONTRAST O IMPRESSIONS WE HAVE HELD AND TO PREVIOUS STATEMENTS
BY UNHCR, PRIM MAINTAINS THAT GOA CONTINUES TO HARASS FOREIGN
REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA. THERE HAVE BEEN NO MORE MASSIVE RAIDS
ON REFUGEE HOUPA, BUT ABOUT 40 CASES PER MONTH ARE REPORTED

TO UNHCR OF INDIVIDUAL KIDNAPPINGS, BEATINGS AND THREATS. CHILEAN REFUGEES APPLYING FOR US PAROLE PROGRAM DO NOT COMPLAIN OF HARRASSMENT, AND PROBLEM MAY BE WITH OTHER NATIONALITIES. REFUGEES ARE FRIGHTENED, AND EFFECT IS SEEN FOR EXAMPLE IN QUICK ACCEPTANCE BY REFUGEES OF VISAS FROM ANY COUNTRY WHICH WILL HAVE THEM. PRIM POINTED OUT THAT SLOW PROCESSING IN WASHINGTON OF US PAROLE PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA HAS RESULTED IN LOSS OF CANDIDATES ALREADY IN SYSTEM TO OTHER COUNTRIES WHOSE OFFER COMES FIRST.

4. UNHCR HAS EVIDENCE THAT REFUGEES ARE STILL BEING FORCIBLY RETURNED TO COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, BOTH TO AND FROM ARGENTINA. BOTH BOLIVIA AND PARAGUAY HAVE RETURNED ARGENTINE REFUGEES INVOLUNTARILY TO ARGENTINA; MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN BOLIVIA ADMITTED THIS TO UNHCR. ON OTHER HAND, THERE ARE REPORTS THAT PARAGUAYAN SECURITY PERSONNEL OPERATE IN AREAS OF ARGENTINA NEAR PARAGUAY, COLLECTING PARAGUAYAN DISSIDENTS, AND EVEN THAT GOA HAS IN SOME CASES ASKED PARAGUAYANS TO COME OVER AND TAKE CUSTODY OF PARAGUAYANS OF WHOM GOA WISHED TO RID ITSELF. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO UNHCR INDICATES THAT FEW PERSONS ARE BEING DEPORTED BACK TO CHILE BUT HAS NO EXPLANATION FOR THIS FACT. THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF CURRENT EXCHANGES OF REFUGEES BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY. LAST LARGE OPERATION KNOWN TO UNHCR WAS KIDNAPPING FROM ARGENTINA OF OVER 60 URUGUAYANS IN OCTOBER 1976, WHO LATER TURNED UP IN URUGUAY IN GOU CUSTODY. UNHCR IS AWARE OF STATUS AND PLACES OF DETENTION OF 22 OF THAT GROUP IN URUGUAY, BUT CANNOT ACCOUNT FOR OTHERS. HILL

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Message Attributes

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